drugs, special schemes for people below poverty line, introduction of Rajasthan Model of Life Line Fluid Stores (hospital pharmacy stores run by Medicare Societies) for bulk purchase of drugs directly from manufacturer and selling them at reduced prices, compounding of offences under the Essential Commodities Act, establishment of DPCO cells in all States on the model of Karnataka, price negotiations at the time of launching of a new patented drug, efforts to increase public awareness, wide publicity to policies and decisions of the Government and NPPA etc.

Drug Price Liability Review Committee

1871. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Drug Price Liability Review Committee was formed around 10 years ago; and

(b) if so, the details of the reports received from this Committee and details of the pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The Drug Prices Liabilities Review Committee (DPLRC) was constituted on 21.3.1994. After giving adequate opportunity of hearing to the drug companies to present their point of view, the Committee gave reports in 50 cases giving its views on various issues involved in these cases but did not quantify the liability.

The terms of reference of the Committee were revised on 10.10.2002 and the Committee is now required to quantify the amount of liability of drug companies in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO 1979. Accordingly the Government referred 33 cases out of 49 cases in which the Committee gave its reports earlier, back to the DPLRC for quantifying the amount of liability. One case has been dropped on the recommendation of the DPLRC. Considering relevant factors involved in each case and on the basis of the certified/Audited quantity of consumption and the procurement price furnished by the companies and as per the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979, the Committee has given its reports in 23 cases (22 companies; one case linked with another case) to the Government quantifying the amount of liability of the drug companies. There are 32 cases pending with the Committee at present.